

162 Our navy, which, during the last three years, has cost such an incalculable amount of money, appears to be facing badly at the hands of the rebels, who were expected to be completely powerless upon the water. They have destroyed the fleet of the President in James river; in the inland waters of North Carolina a rebel craft cost not more than \$50,000 has proved an overmatch for seven of our best gunboats; at Wilmington the fleet of the whole State, including one iron-clad, on an ordinary day, directly by our blockading line; in Red river they have made havoc of a good many of our vessels, including one or two gunboats; and at Charleston and Mobile they have fleets of our vessels which may soon prove damaging or even destructive to the blockaders.

We cannot help thinking, in view of all things, that the navy department has been managed by the present head long enough. Ever since the fight between the first monitor and the Merrimack, he has had monitor upon his brain—no, the ship, which he has made his only object, which he should have considered. Hence if he were to be attacked by one of the most powerful of the rebel rams,

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163 Our Eastern Editor calls Congress "the obscene bird." But doesn't he like its *got*

back on Richmond in a strong position, for Grant said he rebels hold a strategic position between the North and South Anns; the Secretary of War intimates that it may take two or three years to develop the strategy of the respective sides; and, on the other hand, we have no money in our hands, so we take few prisoners. The Virginia Central Railroad runs from Gordonsville to Hanover Junction, between the branches of the Pamunkey—the Anna rivers—and it is doubtless under our control by this time. It is of as important advantage. All things look cheering, though there is nothing decisive.

The passion for the proclamation seems to take its course. The abolition party very much like the measles in a family, every member has it once. The older members have had it, and the younger ones catch it as they grow up. For example, the Cincinnati Gazette, which is as old one, has had it, but the Cincinnati Enquirer, which is a new emancipation proclamation; says the Gazette was "the weapon in the hands of the enemy, North and South, while it did not emancipate a single slave." On the other hand, the abolition journals of Kentucky, which are children in comparison of age, caught the pangs, and were writhing in the agonies of crisis. So it goes.

THE Rev. Dr. Miner delivered a discourse in Boston several nights ago, wherein he accused General Banks of being drunk at the battle of Red River. He said:

A General of Massachusetts, once Governor of the State, and a member of the Temperance league, is defeated at a distant point through the use of the intoxicating cup.

We need not dwell on this contemporary instance of intemperance. The general was defeated "through the use of the intoxicating cup," the draught it contained was not spirituous but spiritless. If intoxicated at all, he was intoxicated by ambition and avarice. He was not a drunkard, nor, to believe, a drunkard, as we have said before, but he was too much absorbed for the good of his country and for his own good in constructing a new State out of Louisiana according to the abolition model. In pursuing his improper ambition, he neglected the proper business, the misdeeds of the latter.

THE Charleston paper says that the negroes throw into that city "merry knock out" contests, and that military engineers are present to watch their mark them.

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